

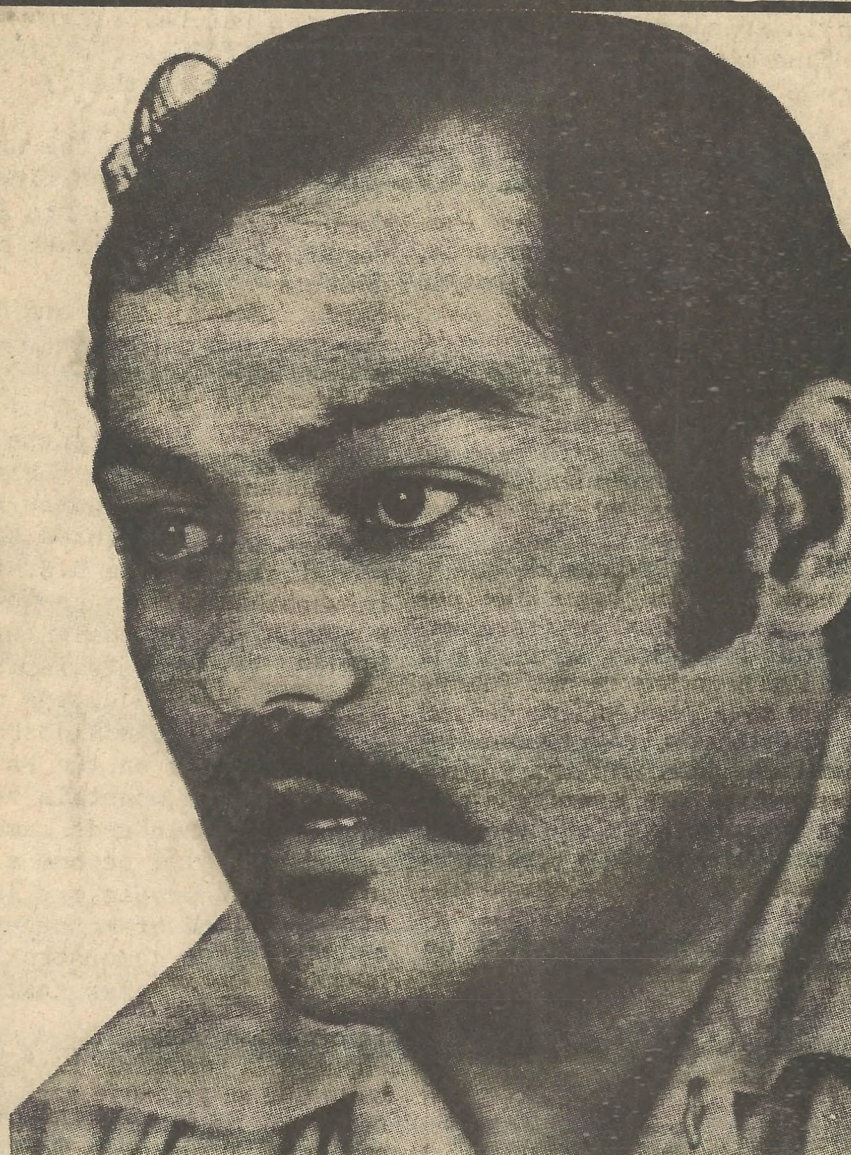
New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence

# — BULLETIN —

Box 295 2520 N. Lincoln Chicago IL

Jan—Feb 1980

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**Angel Rodriguez Cristobal**  
**1946 - 1979**

This issue of the BULLETIN of the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism is dedicated to Angel Rodriguez Cristobal. On November 10, 1979, the U.S. government assassinated the revolutionary and patriot Angel Rodriguez Cristobal. At the time of his murder, he was serving a six-month sentence as a Prisoner of War for his participation in a demonstration against the U.S. Navy that took place May 19, 1979, in Vieques, Puerto Rico.



The struggle of the people of Vieques against the U.S. Navy is the central struggle in the developing protracted People's War for the Independence of Puerto Rico. It is the point of highest contradiction between the people of Puerto Rico and U.S. imperialism.

Angel Rodriguez Cristobal stated in the papers presented to the court that sentenced and convicted him:

"Puerto Rico is a Spanish-American nation under United States military intervention since 1898. This military intervention is practiced in violation of the natural right of all nations to independence. In its struggle for independence, our nation is in its natural right to face the United States military with force. Puerto Rico's right to revolution stems from this source."

Angel Rodriguez Cristobal was a soldier in the war for the national liberation of Puerto Rico. He was a Prisoner of War from the time of his capture to his death. He is the first independentista in Puerto Rico to have taken the stance of Prisoner of War, and he is the first revolutionary Puerto Rican soldier to give his life for Vieques.

Why was he murdered? Because of his political position and practice in fighting for the correct revolutionary strategy for independence in Puerto Rico. He fought for the development of protracted People's War as the only solution to the colonization of Puerto Rico by U.S. imperialism. He was also a leading member of La Liga Socialista Puertorriquena.

Angel Rodriguez Cristobal said to the colonial court that his conviction was illegal because no Puerto Rican can be denied the human right to be on land that is part of the Puerto Rican nation. He refused to recognize any colonial law or federal jurisdiction. Part of the U.S. government's counter-insurgency strategy to destroy the Independence movement was to make him an example, and therefore prevent others from heightening the level of struggle against the U.S. Navy and for national liberation. The U.S. government's action did not do this. The armed clandestine movement has already responded to his murder, and the murders of Arnaldo Dario Rosado and Carlos Soto Arrivi, in the December 4 attack on the Navy bus at Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico. 8,000 people came to his mountain town, Ciales, Puerto Rico, to participate in his funeral. Hundreds came from Vieques itself. The main slogan was "This struggle will become a People's War." As this issue goes to press, the Puerto Rican people are launching an offensive against the U.S. Navy in its latest round of maneuvers at Vieques. Other Vieques resisters arrested at the same demonstration as Angel, and who are now imprisoned in U.S. prisons, have also taken the stance of Prisoner of War.

The reality of war between Puerto Rico and the U.S. is what defines the task of building mass support for the freedom of all current and future Prisoners of War. The New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism is committed to building concrete support for the Vieques resisters and all Puerto Rican Prisoners of War. Our solidarity must help ensure that they will not be isolated in U.S. prisons, and left to be murdered by the U.S. government--as it murdered Angel Rodriguez Cristobal. As we enter this period of heightened struggle, we commit ourselves to mobilizing all those who oppose U.S. imperialism to actively support Independence and the fight against the U.S. Navy.

**US NAVY OUT OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO!!**

**REPATRIATION AND FREEDOM FOR THE VIEQUES RESISTERS!!**

**FREE ALL PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR!!**

**INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALISM FOR PUERTO RICO!!**

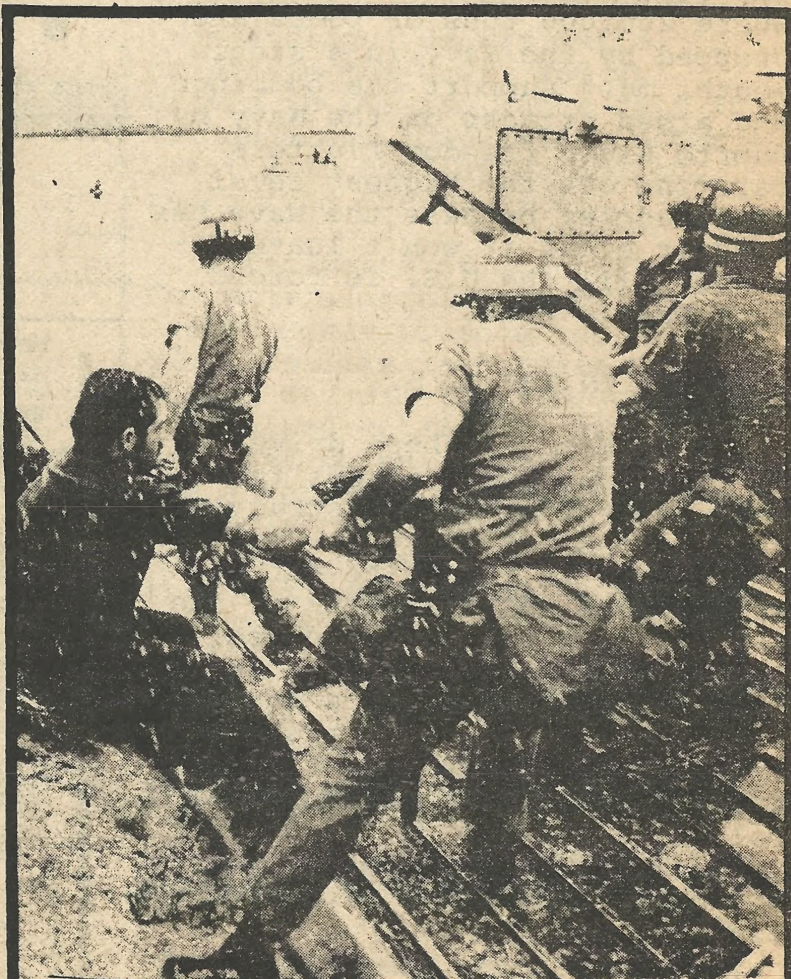


# "Vieques Puts Puerto Rico on the Road to Socialism"

Events of the past several months have made clear that a qualitative advance has taken place in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence and socialism. Revolutionary activity is growing on both the mass and the armed level in the struggle to oust the U.S. Navy from the Puerto Rican island of Vieques and to free Puerto Rico from U.S. colonialism. This growth of the breadth, strength and impact of the revolutionary left, widened by mass support for the armed clandestine movement, is developing strategically at the critical moment. The U.S. is pursuing a strategy of genocide to maintain its control -- culminating within two years in a plebiscite to annex Puerto Rico into the body politic of the U.S. This threat of annexation, coupled with the refusal of the U.S. Navy to stop its bombing, or to give up the land it expropriated, in Vieques, has made it clear: the Puerto Rican people will drive the U.S. Navy from Vieques, and the U.S. from all of their national territory, by counter-acting the military aggression and repression by the U.S. with revolutionary people's war, the only road to independence.

Protests have been met with assassination, such as the recent murder of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, a leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist League and one of the imprisoned Vieques resisters. The elections and courts, far from providing an avenue for the Puerto Rican people to stop the Navy or regain Vieques, have been exposed by tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans as tools of U.S. control. Through the struggle in Vieques, which has become the center of the national liberation movement, the growing unity and impact of the armed clandestine organizations mobilize an ever-broader base of support and of anti-imperialist consciousness among the Puerto Rican masses.

When the U.S. murdered Angel, 8000 people turned out to his funeral in the small mountain town of Ciales on a workday, chanting "Esta lucha va a llegar a la guerra popular!" (This struggle is becoming a people's war) to express their support for this revolutionary independentista, the strategy of people's war he espoused, and his support for the leadership of the clandestine organizations.



Angel Rodriguez Cristobal being arrested by U.S. Navy M.P.'s, for defending Vieques



In the battle to oust the U.S. Navy from Vieques, the Puerto Rican national liberation movement has taken a categorical step forward on the road of people's war.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR SOLIDARITY

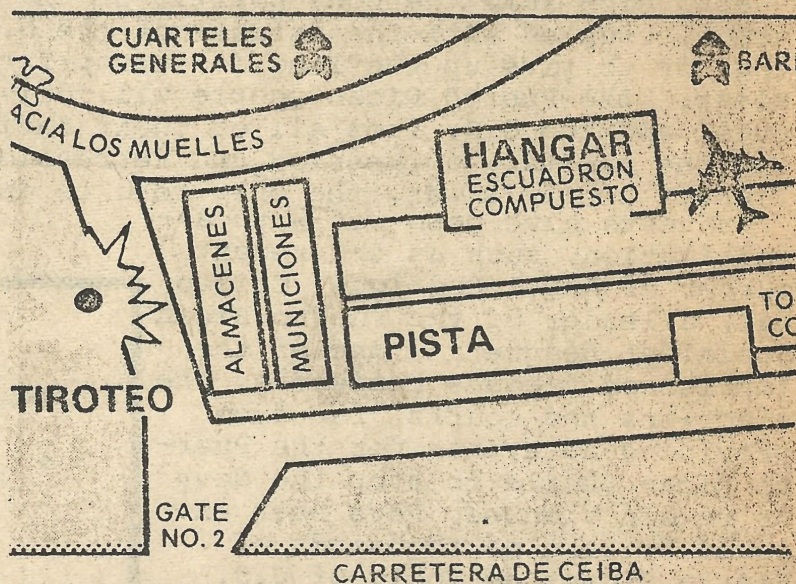
This advance defines more clearly than ever the responsibilities of solidarity for white people in the U.S., part of the colonizing nation. It's no longer possible to take up solidarity with the just cause of independence for Puerto Rico on terms other than that a state of war exists between U.S. imperialism and the people of Puerto Rico. Support must be built for the Puerto Rican side of that war on all its fronts. People who oppose the U.S. bombing in Vieques, where 200,000 tons of bombs are dropped by the Navy in a single month, must support the bombings and armed attacks on the Navy by Puerto Rican freedom fighters carrying out the highest level of struggle; because the Navy has made it clear it won't leave Vieques until the U.S. is forced from Puerto Rico.

### IMPACT IN THE U. S.

Puerto Rico has been driven on to the front pages across the US because of the growing struggle against the U.S. Navy in Vieques. This break in the white-out of information and awareness of the liberation movement was caused by the armed attacks, such as the Dec. 1 shooting of a dozen Navy technicians on a radar station bus by clandestine fighters and the bombing of military and political targets in the U.S., in actions internationally coordinated and united with operations on the island.

Because of this qualitative advance, broad sectors in this country are being faced with conscious choices about U.S. domination of Puerto Rico as a direct external military industrial co-

lony, and about the internal colonization of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. In this period (when massive white supremacist reaction has built up around the hostages in Iran) a polarization against Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans in the U.S. is one response which must be fought by progressive people in this country. At the same time, many people are asking, "What's behind these attacks?" and we must answer them and build solidarity with the people's war for independence.



Map of Roselvelt Roads Navy Base showing site of armed clandestine attack.

### VIEQUES AT THE CENTER

"Vieques is putting Puerto Rico on the road to independence," a statement by Juan Antonio Corretjer of the LSP, begins to answer that question. Vieques, occupied by the U.S. Navy since 1941, has been used increasingly and devastatingly by the U.S. Navy and its NATO and Latin American allies as a bombing and practice range throughout the '70's. Vieques has assumed a central place in the struggle to expel the U.S. invaders.

Vieques, where the U.S. carries out genocide through its destruction of the livelihood, social cohesion and national identity of the people and the



ecology of the island, is no longer simply one front among many struggles of the Puerto Rican people. It has become the central issue, setting the context and terms for the entire struggle.

The U.S. Navy has drawn the line on Vieques. The island is too vital to U.S. imperialist interests - in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and world-wide - for the Navy to give it up. U. S. Vice-Admiral Knoizen has said that the Navy will never leave, and has called on the press to downplay Vieques, because it gives too much support to the 'extremist' left.



Vieques is a vital part of the Roosevelt Roads complex, largest U.S. naval base. It's key in training the entire Atlantic Fleet and the yearly Operation Springboard exercises with NATO. Vieques commands the mouth of the Caribbean and all the military

and commercial sea-lanes from Africa and the Middle East.

Last May, when a mass militant protest greeted the Navy landing on the beach at Bahia de la Chiva in Vieques, Navy M.P.'s were the direct instrument of repression, arresting 21, no longer trusting to the colonial puppets to carry out the repressive orders. One of those arrested, Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, was particularly singled out for abuse and harassment.

#### ANGEL's ASSASSINATION

Taking a stance as a prisoner of war consistent with his fight for Puerto Rican sovereignty and for Vieques, Angel refused to recognize the legitimacy of U.S. courts in Puerto Rico, and was sentenced in federal court for trespassing. He was exiled to prison in the U.S., and was killed in his isolation cell in Tallahassee, immediately after a visit with his lawyer and comrades from Puerto Rico.

In the words of Juan Antonio Corretjer, Angel is the first Puerto Rican prisoner of war to give his life in defense of Vieques. Why did the U.S. carry out this naked escalation of repression and murder Angel? They saw the advance of the independence struggle, undeterred by the prison camps in this country; that William Morales, a Puerto Rican P.O.W. who escaped from captivity into clandestinity, showed that the prisons can no longer be relied on to hold freedom fighters. The U.S., to maintain its hold on Vieques and Puerto Rico, decided to turn the prison camp into a death camp by assassinating Angel.

Angel was singled out because of what he fought for in the Puerto Rican struggle. His politics were for uncompromising struggle against U.S. colonialism, and for waging that strug-

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# Peoples War and the Struggle

The advances in the development of People's War has made the opportunists in the Puerto Rican solidarity movement very uncomfortable. The Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee (PRSC), and the organizations that comprise it, are finding it harder to raise the slogan of "Independence for Puerto Rico" and attack the growing strength of the revolutionary Independence movement led by the armed clandestine organizations and by public organizations such as La Liga Socialista Puertorriquena and the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional. Faced with having to support People's War or drop the demand of Independence, they are moving to liquidate the demand for Independence and continue to attack the revolutionary movement.

In the New York chapter of the New Movement, we recently had some experience with these politics and the practice they give rise to.

Under the leadership of the MLN, we attempted to develop some joint work with the New York Vieques Support Committee to protest the assassination of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal. Clearly his murder was an attack on the Independence movement and on the entire Puerto Rican people and it was important to bring together as many people as possible on a correct basis. The principles put forward by the MLN in this coalition clearly established the political basis for broad anti-imperialist unity:

1. Angel was a member of the central committee of La Liga Socialista Puertorriquena. He was committed to the building of protracted people's war. That is why he was at Vieques, that is why he was a Prisoner of War after his capture, and that is why he was killed.

2. He was murdered by the U.S. government, and it bears full responsibility for his death. U.S. imperialism is the enemy of the Puerto Rican people.

The other organizations in the coalition were not asked to necessarily agree with the politics of La Liga but only to present them correctly. The Vieques Support Committee (made up of the PSP (Puerto Rican Socialist Party), the MINP-EL Comite, the Union of Patriotic Puerto Ricans, some individual Puerto Rican politicians, and the PRSC) attacked both these principles.

They fought to project Angel as a Puerto Rican farmer who supported the fishermen of Vieques; if La Liga had to be mentioned, nothing could be said about its revolutionary politics... When the MLN rejected these terms, the Vieques Support Committee drafted a separate press statement. While mouthing words about Angel being a "martyr of the Puerto Rican people", they attacked La Liga, the MLN, and the armed clandestine movements in a vicious and sectarian way.

In the face of the overwhelming political and physical evidence of Angel's assassination, these forces called for a federal investigation into his death. This is what Barcelo and his representative in Washington did. That demand legitimizes the U.S. government and opens the door for the convening of a federal grand jury that would become a fishing expedition directed against the independence movement. And that demand directly attacked the clear stand Angel himself had taken when he rejected the legitimacy of U.S. control over any aspect of Puerto Rican life and declared himself a Prisoner of War.

When the MLN and the New Movement refused to be complicit with these reformist terms, the other groups in the coalition used totally unprincipled styles of work to try to block the impact of revolutionary politics. They refused to organize for joint actions, tried unsuccessfully to physically isolate the MLN and the New Movement contingent, and tried to stop any chants supporting Independence for



# gle against Opportunism

Puerto Rico or the waging of People's War.

In practice, they fought to destroy the work in response to Angel's death rather than do the work on terms that would build the anti-imperialist movement.

## THE POLITICS OF FEAR

At the heart of these opportunist politics are the "Politics of Fear" as Don Juan Antonio Corretjer has called it. The fear to fight against imperialism, the fear that imperialism can never be defeated even in the face of the victories of protracted people's war around the world.

These politics of fear were projected at the recent Second International Conference in Solidarity with Puerto Rico in Mexico particularly by the U.S. Organizing Committee under the leadership of the PSP and the PRSC. At that conference, a demand for a "transfer of power" from the U.S. Congress to the people of Puerto Rico was raised; in essence the demand of "Independence for Puerto Rico" was liquidated. The PRSC has adopted this demand for a transfer of power, and their strategy is to petition and pressure Congressmen to vote for the Dellum's Bill which authorizes such a transfer of power. While the Puerto Rican people wage a protracted people's war, the only strategy which will liberate them, we in this country have only to write letters and do educationals.

Clearly the PRSC continues to believe that U.S. imperialism can be reformed and that Puerto Rico is marginal to imperialism's interests.

The reality is just the opposite. If Angel's death and the U.S. genocidal insistence in staying in Vieques prove anything, they clearly show that Puerto Rico is of great strategic significance to the U.S. and that the U.S. will do anything it can get away with to retain control.

The Plebescite scheduled by the U.S. for 1981 is designed to politically destroy the Puerto Rican nation through

annexation into the U.S. Annexationism poses the greatest threat to Puerto Rico, and we must make every effort to build solidarity with the revolutionary anti-imperialist movement in Puerto Rico and its rearguard component here in the U.S. that over the next two years can expose and delegitimize U.S. efforts through massive resistance and struggle. The struggle to block the plebiscite is key to the advances of the independence movement and will challenge the U.S. strategy of genocide against the Puerto Rican nation.

In the face of this reality, the opportunists are moving further to the right to legitimize U.S. control. The demand of a "transfer of power" the PSP's electoral strategy, and the PRSC's congressional lobbying strategy are all premised on the legitimacy of U.S. control and on the inability of the Puerto Rican people to defeat the U.S. These politics and the practice of these organizations support imperialism when the Puerto Rican nation and people in this country must be mobilized to defeat it.

They must be exposed and isolated. This is an issue not just for the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence but for every honest anti-imperialist in this country. What's at stake is not some organizational question of two Puerto Rico solidarity movements with different strategies, but the fact that the PRSC is consolidating as a force that opposes the real struggle for Puerto Rican Independence. The New Movement has a particular responsibility to the anti-imperialist movement in this country to develop revolutionary program in solidarity with Puerto Rican independence, but everyone who opposes U.S. imperialist control over Puerto Rico has an obligation to implement that program and to demand the dissolution of the PRSC.



# Angel lives in the Struggle

Many people think of Puerto Rico as either an island paradise--"Puerto Rico USA"--or as a place where everyone is on food stamps or welfare, trying to leave for the U.S. But going there brought home the fact that Puerto Rico is a colony - a separate country fighting for its liberation from the U.S. I had the privilege of representing the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence at the funeral of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal.

Participating in this funeral in Puerto Rico also enabled me to see and understand more clearly the process of mobilization of the Puerto Rican nation that is going on in the development of people's war.

The funeral was held in Angel's hometown. Ciales is a town of 3000 located in the mountains and known for its history of political action. 8000 people came from all over the island and from Vieques to pay their respects and to honor Angel. At the small house which Angel had built himself, thousands of mourners came to view his body. Above his eye was a long gash across his forehead. For any of those who had questions - the proof of his assassination was there to see.

There was a march to the cemetery. The town of Ciales had stopped. The shops were empty; everyone was in the march itself or on the side, watching. Thousands chanted "Esta lucha va a llegar a la guerra popular"-- forward with the people's war. Many have argued that it is only a fringe element that supports the armed struggle in Puerto Rico; yet here in Ciales were people from all over Puerto Rico chanting "Down with Yanki imperialism! Forward with the armed struggle!" --

people who knew the chants and understood their significance.

This doesn't mean that everyone in the march was ready to support specific clandestine armed forces or agreed with all their actions; but rather that there was a consciousness that this is the road to liberation, a consciousness that has been won by the actions of the clandestine forces, the consciousness of a nation at war with an enemy - the U.S. The sense of this at the funeral was immediate and dynamic. The whole town square and all the streets leading to the cemetery were filled with people expressing it with their presence and the sacrifices they made to come to Ciales on a work day.

The people of Vieques flew at great expense to attend the funeral. Make no mistake - their anger was not just for an anonymous fighter killed in the struggle. The U.S. knew exactly who Angel was - a man who was willing to meet imperialism head on. Angel had brought the politics of people's war to the struggle of Vieques. As a member and leader of the LSP, he had participated in militant actions to drive the Navy out. Once arrested, Angel demanded to be treated as a prisoner of war, refusing to recognize the jurisdiction of the U.S. courts, refusing to be intimidated by the threat of jail. People knew that the U.S. wanted to make an example of Angel so that others wouldn't follow his leadership.

The people of Vieques were clear that Angel's murder would only serve to push them harder in their fight against the Navy. In a conversation several days after the funeral, Carlos Zenon, head of the Vieques Fishermen's Assoc., said: "There were still some people who





8,000 Puerto Ricans attended Angel Rodriguez Cristobal's funeral in his home town of Ciales.

believed in the goodwill of the Navy. But after Angel's murder, people we had given up on people we had almost given up on came around and asked what they could do. We are going to drive the Navy out of Vieques." Zenon said the people of Vieques were continuing in their plans to disrupt maneuvers, as shown by the stopping of maneuvers in January.

The spirit and the politics at Angel's funeral represented the building of unity - a real unity based on support for revolution. The Four Nationalists spoke as people who had engaged in armed actions against U.S. imperialism,

There was the unity of the nation. Four organizations besides the LSP agreed that Don Juan Antonio Corretjer should speak for them, because they understood that he had a correct grasp of the significance of the imperialist's murder of Angel, and that he could best articulate the feelings and understandings of the Puerto Rican people. Don Juan spoke of Angel in the context of the Puerto Rican revolution for independence and socialism. When he cursed the yanki imperialists

and their Navy, the funeral marchers cursed with him.

As a white North American, I again saw the consequences of not taking seriously the colonialism of the U.S. Most of us who knew who Angel was, never took seriously what it meant to declare oneself a prisoner of war in a struggle that is against the violent interests of the US military. We thought, "He was only convicted of trespassing, a six-month sentence. True, Tallahassee is a notoriously racist prison, and Angel is isolated from the rest of his comrades in this country." But we didn't see that being a P.O.W. means that if you are in the hands of the U.S. government - the enemy- for even an hour, you may be killed. The point is not to ask questions or demand investigations afterwards. If we had really understood what it means to be a P.O.W. P.O.W. to begin with, and acted on it, Angel might be alive today. Understanding it now, we must do all in our power to defend and win the repatriation from exile of the Vieques resisters, Nydia and Pablo and all Puerto Rican prisoners of war.



# 2nd Joint Communique of Puerto



ORGANIZACION DE  
VOLUNTARIOS POR LA  
REVOLUCION PUERTORRIQUEÑA  
(OVRP)



LIBERACION NACIONAL PUERTORRIQUEÑA

The struggle of the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico against the U.S. Navy has reached a point which calls for the immediate withdrawal of this military force from its lands and waters. This is the only acceptable compromise for this heroic people, in view of the atrocities and punishments committed against them by the U.S. Navy since it made its presence felt in 1941. But especially now since the U.S. Navy and Imperialism are using the threat of assassinations and incarcerations to destroy the will of the Viequense people to struggle. This threat materialized in the case of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal who, as a prisoner of war, was assassinated by the imperialists. Today, we pay tribute to this fallen comrade.

Since 1941, the Navy has had almost absolute control of the vital aspects of life in Vieques. In this island-municipality, the Navy controls over 76% of the most arable and fertile land; thus denying the residents its use for cultivation. At the same time, the Navy deprives the people of the most basic human right- the right to work and to earn a decent livelihood. This situation has forced the people either to emigrate (over 50% of the people have been forced out of Vieques since 1941), or to live under abject and sub-human economic conditions. Presently, the unemployment rate is 60%, and close to one third of the population live below the poverty level. As a consequence, social problems like drug addiction, alcoholism and prostitution are deeply affecting this municipality. Here, it is important to point out that these problems were unheard of prior to 1941, since before that year, Vieques enjoyed a relatively stable economic base.

The Navy is directly behind the factors which limit the development of the various sectors of the Viequense economy. For example, the principal obstacle to the full enjoyment of a productive fishing industry is the restrictions imposed by the Navy, which forbids access to fishing grounds. The military maneuvers also destroy with regularity the fishing nets. Such acts create significant economic losses to the fishermen. The military bombardments and target practices destroy the natural environment of the marine life in the area, causing a tremendous unbalance to the ecological resources. Hence, the productive forces.

In essence, the U.S. Navy has brought only suffering and the ills of its decadent society to the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico. And now, with the assassination of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, it has brought grief and sorrow to the people of Vieques, in particular, and to all of Puerto Rico in general.

But the atrocities committed by the U.S. Navy will never be able to stop the heroic struggle of the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico to recover its lands and waters. The Viequenses and those who support them are ready to sacrifice everything, including their lives, in order to secure the expulsion of the U.S. Navy from its lands and waters.



# Rican Clandestine Organizations

The Motherland is courage and sacrifice—Pedro Albizu Campos!

We also seize this opportunity to express our solidarity with the just claim of the Iranian people. We defend their demand that the Shah be returned to Iran now. And we firmly believe that any attempt by the U.S. government to use military force in Iran will only be met by defeat; defeat when

confronted by a heroic people. We also affirm that imperialism is an illegal system which will be fought whether in Iran or in Vieques, Puerto Rico; for justice is on the side of all anti-imperialist forces.

RETURN THE CRIMINAL SHAH TO THE  
IRANIAN PEOPLE NOW!!

THE NAVY OUT OF VIEQUES NOW !!

INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALISM NOW !!

## Sabana Seca Communique

### Declaration by Puerto Rican fighters who ambushed U.S. naval bus

*In December a U.S. navy bus was ambushed by anti-imperialist fighters in Puerto Rico. The following is a communication issued by the revolutionary forces who carried out the attack. Translation by The Worker.*

On the morning of the 3rd of December the joint forces of the 'organizacion de Voluntarios para la Revolucion Puertorriqueña' (OVRP) (Organization of Volunteers for the Puerto Rican Revolution), the 'Ejercito Popular Boricua' (EPB — Macheteros) (Boricua Popular Army), and the 'Fuerzas Armadas de Resistencia Popular' (FARP) (Armed Forces of Popular Resistance) carried out a military action against the occu-

pying Yankee military forces that operate in the "U.S. Naval Security Group Activity" in the Barrió Sabana Seca, in the town of Toa Baja.

The aggressive imperialist enemies of our people have lately massacred two young patriots at Cerro Maravilla and very recently a young farmer and patriot, Angel Rodríguez Cristóbal, in the dungeon of the Federal Prison of Tallahassee, Florida.

The assassination of Angel Rodríguez Cristóbal was perpetrated by the Yankee Intelligence to intimidate our people and their leaders in a useless attempt to make us cease our struggle. Instead of being intimidated our people have responded with shame and

indignation.

The plot by the Colonial Government, the principal hangman in the assassinations at Cerro Maravilla, the the North American (U.S.) Government, executioner of Angel Rodríguez Cristóbal is evident. Persisting in their imperialist efforts to perpetuate the control and exploitation of our people they try to paralyse the patriotic forces in their revolutionary and liberating advance by using the politics of terror and repression.

The Yankee military strategists should not deceive themselves. The blood of the Puerto Rican martyrs and patriots will be revenged with the blood of the Imperialists. The Yankee occupying forces

will be a target of the Patriotic Fire every time that the assassin hand of the Imperialist takes the life of a Puerto Rican patriot. We warn the Imperialists that they should respect the life and security of our prisoners according to the Geneva Convention, otherwise they will be responsible for the irreversible consequences that will follow as a result of our people's popular indignation.

The clandestine organizations that subscribe to this statement are not playing at war. We are prepared to take this struggle to its last consequences.

For independence and socialism!

Long Live Free Puerto Rico!



# Week of Solidarity with

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 1 1980

Our solidarity work in this country must be based on the strategy and timetable of the Puerto Rican revolutionary movement.

It's clear that Vieques is central to that strategy. Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, in his statement declaring himself a Prisoner of War, clearly said that in Vieques the Puerto Rican people can see the model of the U.S. genocidal strategy. And the Puerto Rican people have responded by making the demand to oust the Navy a mass and militant one. The revolutionary movement is struggling to build the mass movement as a self-conscious anti-imperialist movement committed to total liberation. Such a movement can stop the Navy, block the plebes-cite, and move towards independence.

The stakes in Vieques are very high. This is not just one more year that the U.S. Navy is holding maneuvers and the fishermen will try to block them. Increasingly, it is the Puerto Rican nation struggling against intensified genocide. A victory this year will strengthen the independence movement and build the anti-imperialist struggle. Vieques is at the

center of the growing People's War and so must be at the center of our work here. We must mobilize every person who opposes genocide and imperialist war to actively support the Puerto Rican national liberation struggle and the struggle against the Navy.

We must go ALL OUT FOR VIEQUES NOW and help defeat the Navy and U.S. plans for annexation!

The New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism is calling for a Week of Solidarity with Vieques on February 22-March 1. We are building for a series of forums, pickets, and militant actions, that will be the opportunity for people in this country who support Independence for Puerto Rico to participate in the struggle to defeat the Navy on the terms of the revolutionary movement.

We urge everyone to join us where possible and to plan their own activities where it's not. Our actions can make the U.S. Navy an enemy within its own borders, can directly aid the Puerto Rican independence struggle and weaken imperialism's efforts to prepare for war.

US NAVY OUT OF VIEQUES PUERTO RICO!!

SUPPORT THE VIEQUES RESISTERS, FREE ALL

The US Navy has begun new extraordinary maneuvers in the island of Vieques. I and their supporters are resisting the invasion through forceful demonstrations. In pleting its maneuvers off the island. IT IS URGENT TO BUILD SOLIDARITY IN During the week of February 24-March 1, activities will be held in New York City, C darity with the struggle to oust the Navy from Vieques. The activities planned inc centers on campuses, slideshows and forums, culminating in regional demonstration cipation of North Americans in these activities will provide material and political su National Committee for the Defense of Vieques during the first three weeks of Mar their first-hand experiences in the struggle against the Navy and the US domination maneuvers. We can show our solidarity with the struggle in Vieques and with the g darity and the tour of the National Committee for the Defense of Vieques in March

## U.S. Tour—National Committee

MARCH 1-M

CHICAGO MILWAUKEE MADISON MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL IOWA CITY M  
W. MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON SAN FRANCISCO PORTLAND LOS ANGEL



# the People of Vieques



PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR!!

INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALISM FOR PUERTO RICO!!

early January, the Navy resumed its bombing of the island. Once again, the fishermen  
early January, fifteen fishing boats successfully stopped a Navy destroyer from com-  
THIS COUNTRY WITH THE STRUGGLE IN VIEQUES AGAINST THE US NAVY.  
Chicago, Kansas City, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, to demonstrate soli-  
de leafleting and picketing Navy recruiting offices, demonstrations at Naval ROTC  
March 1 which will target the US Navy and the genocide it carries out. The parti-  
support for the struggle and will build for a tour of the US by the Puerto Rican  
h. Members of the National Committee for the Defense of Vieques will share  
of Puerto Rico. Our support for their struggle is a very powerful weapon against US  
owing people's war for Puerto Rican independence by supporting the week of soli-

## e for the Defense of Vieques

MARCH 23 1980

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI LAWRENCE, KANSAS NEW YORK CITY ITHACA  
S SAN DIEGO BOULDER DENVER AUSTIN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



# REPRINT: FROM BEHIND THE BARS OF TALLAHASSEE

We offer to the Puerto Rican public the complete text of an historic document, originated in the cells of the federal prison at Tallahassee, in which the prisoners confined there offer additional testimony on the assassination of our unforgettable comrade ANGEL RODRIGUEZ CRISTOBAL. Sunday, Dec. 9 EL MUNDO newspaper published a fragment, after corroborating with federal authorities the authenticity of all the names mentioned. Monday, Dec. 10, the family of Rodriguez Cristobal, represented by Efrain, Angel's brother, released the full text of the document to the news media and brief quotations and references to it were transmitted by radio and television.

Note: The ellipsis points which appear are reproduced exactly as they appeared in the original letter and do not indicate that any part of the letter has been suppressed.

TO THE LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE:

To you, who do not know what really goes on behind these walls, this open letter is directed. To you, who are ignorant of the injustices and violations of elementary Human Rights that occur daily in this federal prison, we send it in the hope that you will not continue to remain indifferent in the face of the humiliation, degradation and perversion of those ever-fewer values that still keep us human beings.

Latinos in this institution have always been victims of social and racial prejudice of the retrograde bureaucrats that control this institution, but in the last 3 months these vile prejudices have been converted into flagrant abuses, clear discrimination and the daily bread of the Latin population. If a

month ago, the Resident Commissioner (of Puerto Rico) in Washington, Baltazar Corrada del Rio, had listened to our desperate call for help in a copy of the letter we sent to the local press (Tallahassee Democrat) which we sent him, perhaps the murder of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal might have been avoided; but disgracefully his ears were closed to our calls . . .

There exists evidence that Cristobal was assassinated. We the inmates, know of the existence of this proof. We can give names, dates and locations of the abnormalities that encircled the life of Cristobal during his stay in this institution, up to the fatal night of his death. However, no one has asked us anything . . . They say that the FBI, this very institution, and the Bureau of Prisons in Washington made an "exhaustive investigation" of the event, and rendered their findings, that Rodriguez Cristobal took his own life. We ask ourselves: What kind of "exhaustive investigations" were these, in which the prisoners were never listened to? What kind of objective investigation was this, where the bureaucrats and Ku Klux Klan that function as the custody officials are investigated by themselves and by persons with no kind of objectivity in their analysis of the facts?

We don't intend to narrate one by one the acts of injustice carried out against the Latino population. If Mr. Corrada del Rio had published the carbon copy he received from us more than a month ago you would have known many of them prior to the death of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal. We will tell, however, what came down in the last few weeks, when we have noted that the noose around



our throats has become more certain.

Yesterday, a 19-year-old Latino named Manuel Reyes was threatened by an official in charge of Dormitory B with being kicked and buffeted on the face if he continued to claim his rights. What was the youth's "crime?" His bed wasn't made to the officer's taste. In his prejudiced anger towards him, the officer totally messed up the bed and all his belongings, threatening him with being sent to solitary (where Cristobal lost his life), if he did not arrange them as the officer wanted. The officer has spent two days provoking and mistreating the prisoner, searching and disorganizing his belongings, seeking to make him lose control and so be able to discharge his anger and his sick prejudice against the young Cubano. The prisoner presented a grievance against him ( B.P. 9); nothing has been done.

Officer Frazee is known as the "Inquisitor" of the Latin population of this institution. There have been many abuses committed by this officer against the Latin population. In his "witch hunt" against the Hispanic population, he is accustomed to break the personal possessions of the prisoners without account for their sentimental or economic value. Any protest is met by his indecent words, full of racism, and inevitably the prisoner is going to end up in solitary on whatever charges he invents. This gentleman represents a crass and barefaced example of abuse of power. His unjust decisions are accepted without protest by his superiors. This individual appears to possess more power here than the actual Captain of the officers . . . why would this be?

Only yesterday we were informed by the directors of each dormitory that telephone calls to any Latin American country, in-



Angel Rodriguez Cristobal (left), pictured here with Puerto Rican POW Ismael Guadalupe at their arrest on Vieques May 19.

cluding Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, would not be permitted. That is to say, that no Latin American will be able to make telephone contact with his family, his parents, brothers and sisters, children during the Christmas season, nor during the rest of his sentence. The North Americans incarcerated here would be able to; the Latinos, no . . .

The correspondence of the Latino prisoners is searched and read in its totality. This occurs with more intensity since the murder of Rodriguez Cristobal. How do we know? Because our letters, which before took 3 to 5 days to arrive now take 7 to 10 days. This is so even in the case of mail that comes and goes to Puerto Rico. Simply, they are afraid of what we can write to those we are intimate with. They want to know who violates the ostracism to which they have submitted us. Whoever tells more of the story in his letters or phone calls risks a great deal. He will pay for his daring with mistreatment, persecution, distant transfers, or postponement of



his release date, which can be done under any unjust pretext.

In this way the most elemental right that a prisoner has is violated--communication with his dear ones, so necessary for maintaining the bonds of love and affection between us and our loved ones in Latin America.

Isn't this racism, discrimination and clear and naked prejudice . . . ? There is no doubt that these gentlemen think we are as insensitive, dehumanized and jaded as they are . . .

The fear that throbs in all the personnel is evident. Like all repressive instruments in the face of fear, the officialdom of the institution reacts with oppression and institutionalized violence. It is because of the truth that the Latinos know about the murder of Cristobal that we are being submitted to ostracism.

We ask ourselves, what would be the reaction of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Norman Carlson, if he knew just how weak was his authority over this prison, where the officers have the power and their Directors are purely decorative figures, marionettes on the strings of a racist group . . .

The murder of Rodriguez Cristobal was the culmination of racist prejudice and pressure and abuse of power against a man who was alone, exiled from



his land and at the mercy of criminal sadists like those who function here as guards. Messrs. James Kennedy, Ray Berry and especially Mr. Robert Mullaney, who referred to Cristobal with words like "dirty Puerto Rican," initiated the process of oppression and spiritual destruction of this political prisoner, who was in no way guilty. These gentlemen are officers in charge of the kitchen of the institution, where he worked. The dirtiest and hardest work and the most abusive schedule were given to Rodriguez Cristobal. Every inmate works some seven hours as a maximum; they made Rodriguez Cristobal work from 5:30 AM to 6:30 PM with the excuse that there was a scarcity of personnel. He had the right to two days off a week; however with the same pretext of lack of personnel, he worked 15 consecutive days, because they called him to work on his days off. It was because he could not accept this slavery and humiliation that he came to refuse to work in the kitchen and asked that they give him a change of work. It was due to this just request that they confined him in solitary and began a daily dose of Thorazine.

There is a witness, whose name is Danny Charles Shepard (prison # 03749-264), who found himself in the cell alongside Cristobal, and who was present and heard the mistreatment and abuse perpetrated on him the night of his death; this inmate heard the sound of blows and the banging of bodies against the wall of the adjacent cell, where Rodriguez Cristobal was found. The officer who most mistreated him with words and denied him even water was Mr. Beiro or Bauro, of Cuban nationality. Why didn't the just-concluded investigations include this officer and this prisoner?



The Latinos in Tallahassee live in a terrorizing tension. We fear being sent to solitary, being victims of "accidents" or "suicides." We are incomunicado from our families by having been denied the right of telephone communication; the reason given for this senseless and ridiculous action that in the countries we call they don't pay for these calls, and the local company has refused to give overseas service. We know that the cause is nothing other than closing our mouths and preventing our communications from reaching the Latin American press. We are trying with this letter, without much faith that we will succeed. God help us.

We know another prisoner, named Bill Youngan, who will very soon be transferred to the federal institution in Memphis, Tennessee, who was in one of the solitary cells near Cristobal's and who knows a great part of the truth about the events that happened that night.

We have nothing more to say in this communication, although we would say much more if there were a serious, objective, and sincere investigation of what really is happening here with the Latin population. Such an investigative commission should contain some persons who speak our language for clearer communication.

We want to make it clear that those of us who edited this letter are of different Latin American nationalities, different political ideologies and we are here serving time for different crimes committed. The reason we do not give our names is obvious; we need to return to liberty.

We also remind you that we are not trying to pass for innocent victims. We are criminals; we have committed crimes and we accept the price. But we are

human beings, not "monsters." It hurts us when they wound our bodies and we bleed like any ordinary person. Perhaps we have been guilty and accepted the price. But we are human beings. Perhaps we have lost the road to find it, but just like you we want to find happiness. Yes, we deserve to be punished for our errors, but man stopped being barbarian when he began to pray and to love. His institutions became strong when his humanistic and intellectual gifts became strong. But there still exists a taboo; this taboo is perhaps the only remaining manifestation of troglodytism and barbarism in man. This taboo is the system of prisons of all the countries of the world. You can believe it or not; in our prisons, both state and federal, people are still tortured, attacked and killed. There are many cases to cite; we don't have to do so. We have an example in Angel Rodriguez Cristobal.

From Federal Prison, Latin-American Prisoners, Tallahassee, Florida.

cc: Sr. Baltazar Corrada del Rio--Resident Commissioner in Washington.

#### NEWS FLASH!

Sgt. La Cerda, Director of Public Relations for the U.S. Navy in Puerto Rico was arrested, in possession of explosives and charged with the right-wing terrorist bombing on the Puerto Rican Bar Association Building that occurred last year.

#### NEWS FLASH!

Mildred Nartinez, one of the Vieques resisters, has just been released from Alderson.



VIEQUES cont. from p. 5

gle according to scientific, Marxist-Leninist principles. Based on these principles, the LSP has argued for the necessity of a clandestine vanguard in Puerto Rico and a political-military rearguard in the U.S., away from the repressive reach of the U.S. colonial apparatus. The U.S. understands that the growing people's war and the developing revolutionary leadership of the clandestine organizations threaten its control of Puerto Rico and of Vieques.

As the struggle in Vieques has developed, these clandestine organizations have attacked the Navy and Coast Guard and head-on exposed the depths of U.S. repressive and cooptive strategies to maintain domination. They have been key in responding to and advancing the confrontational level of struggle of the people of Vieques, who have upset Navy maneuvers with their small boats. They have led in discrediting the strategy of the puppet colonial governor and of the reformist independence forces, to confine the Vieques struggle to the courtroom. They have helped expose the U.S. territorial courts in Puerto Rico as a puppet judicial system responding to the demands of the Navy and the colonial system. Thus, they contributed to the massification and unification of struggle over Vieques, against the Navy, among the entire Puerto Rican population.

In the struggle for Vieques, in the growing inter-relationship of armed struggle and mass anti-imperialist struggle, the clandestine organizations have pushed forward the capacity of the Puerto Rican people to wage a successful people's war for independence. They have been protected by the supportive and enveloping silence of the Puerto Rican people on the island and in the U.S., in the face of govern-

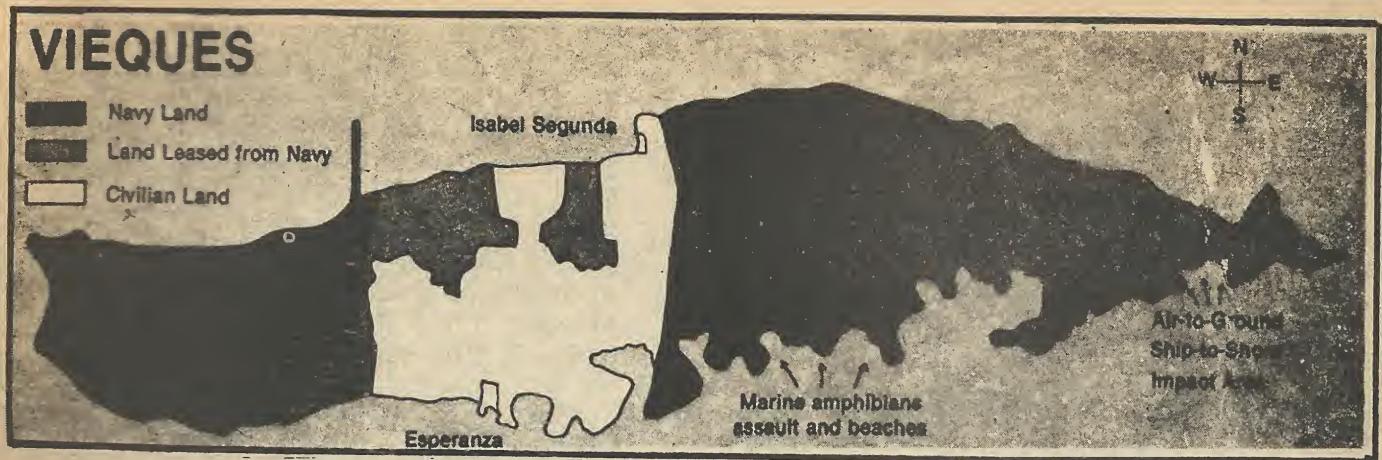
ment inquisitions. Frustrated by the immunity of the clandestine forces and the growth of the revolutionary left in the Vieques struggle, the U.S. assassinated Angel, a public supporter of the clandestine organizations, in an effort to provoke a response that would enable them to penetrate and attack the underground forces.

In the assault on a U.S. Navy bus at Sabana Seca (in which 2 Navy technicians were killed and 10 injured), in bombings in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, it was made clear that the U.S. would pay a price for continuing its colonial presence and murderous repression in Puerto Rico; that the Puerto Rican people are prepared to wage a war to defend their survival as a nation and regain their sovereignty. These acts underline the reality and seriousness of the stage which has been reached.

But some people in this country don't accept the basis for actions like Sabana Seca. They ask, "Can't the Puerto Ricans vote for independence?" But this denies the reality that the war was begun and is continued by the US through its illegal military occupation.

All the colonial elections and plebiscites, far from being an avenue for the Puerto Rican people to win freedom, have always been used by the U.S. as a weapon to maintain colonialism whenever the independence movement has made revolutionary advances. They are used to divide the Puerto Rican people. In this period in particular, to maintain control over Vieques and all of Puerto Rico, holding the U.S. presidential primaries and colonial elections in Puerto Rico is a key part of a repressive ideological offensive being waged to integrate Puerto Rico into the body politic of the U.S.





As Vieques becomes the central issue and battleground of the people's struggle against U.S. imperialism, for independence and socialism, the Puerto Rican people are increasingly recognizing and exposing that the genocide the U.S. Navy has carried out in Vieques, through depopulation, by destroying the social fabric and economy and ecology, is what is in store for Puerto Rico as a whole. The U.S. is attempting to smash the revolutionary independence movement in order to impose statehood, and implement the "Puerto Rico 2020" plan, to convert the island into a dozen military-industrial 'parks.' To prevent this, the Puerto Rican are increasingly struggling for independence, based on the strategy of people's war as the only effective road to national salvation and liberation.

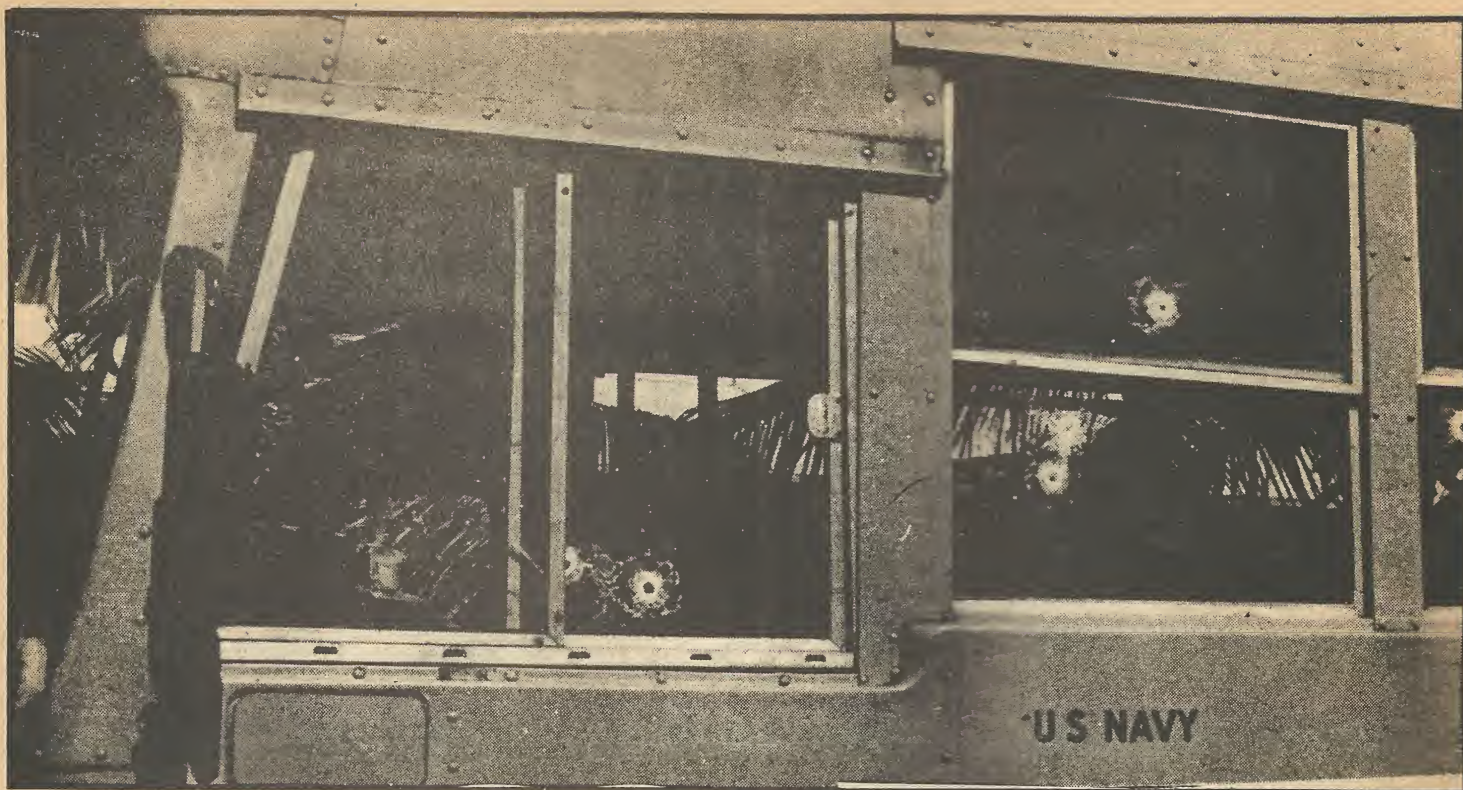
The murder of Angel, rather than intimidating the Puerto Rican people or the Vieques struggle, has served to strengthen their will. Angel lives on in that growing struggle.

As people's war develops, its impact is increasingly felt in the U.S. and on the whole system of U.S. imperialism. A key component of the people's war is the political-military rearguard, which attacks U.S. imperialism within its home base and pushes forward awareness in the U.S. of Puerto Rico's anti-colonial struggle. Our solidarity must

be based on support for the armed struggle in the U.S. as well as in Puerto Rico, and for the freedom fighters held as P.O.W.s. The state cannot be allowed to carry out future counter-insurgency attacks like the murder of Angel, because of our complicity in the state strategy to isolate Puerto Rican revolutionaries. We must prevent such attacks on other political prisoners and prisoners of war, like the Vieques resisters, six more of whom were moved to prisons in the U.S. after the assassination of Angel, or like Nydia Cuevas and Pablo Marcano, serving long prison terms in the U.S. for taking over the Chilean consulate in San Juan on July 4, 1978. Angel's murder makes it clear that the threat of death hangs over these prisoners; that their safety doesn't lie in legal maneuvers, but on the strength of the clandestine forces and of a mass militant campaign for the release and repatriation of all these Puerto Rican freedom fighters.

We must take up active struggle alongside the Puerto Rican people against the U.S. Navy, targetting its recruitment apparatus here as part of the struggle on this front to drive the Navy from Vieques and the U.S. imperialist presence from Puerto Rico. The clandestine organizations have made it clear that Navy personnel carrying out genocide in Vieques and Puerto Rico are enemies of the Puerto Rican people; first with a warning, when sail-





U.S. Navy bus after shooting attack by clandestine fighters at Sabana Seca

ors in a bar on Vieques were captured and then released with a message about the consequences of the continued U.S. presence. At Sabana Seca, they carried out a military consequence against the Navy for the murder of Angel and other independentistas. We must help to make the Navy an enemy within the borders of the U.S. as well. We have the responsibility to erode the base in this country for the Navy's occupation of Puerto Rico, to win support within this country and within the Navy itself for the revolutionary and just struggle of the Puerto Rican people. As the people in Vieques seek to impede the Navy's maneuvers, we must seek to impede its ability to recruit forces to wage war on the Puerto Rican people. We can and must also materially aid the Viequenses and the Puerto Rican people in their struggle. Every day the small boats go out to block the maneuvers costs \$1000 in gas alone.

The Puerto Rican independence struggle is a strategic one, because of the strategic military

imperialism, the wealth which Puerto Rico represents to the U.S. empire, and especially because of the existence of over 2-1/2 million Puerto Ricans in the U.S. and the consequent development of a political-military rearguard struggle. For all these reasons, the growing people's war for independence will shake the empire to its very foundations; and that struggle demands from us, and challenges us, to the highest level of solidarity. The qualitative and quantitative advance of the Puerto Rican independence struggle means that we must redouble our efforts to build revolutionary anti-imperialist solidarity among white working class people in the U.S. We must make a qualitative break with complicity in imperialist strategies for dominating Puerto Rico at the same time as we grow quantitatively in building effective solidarity. We must learn from the Puerto Rican people that independence, justice and self-determination can only be won by fighting for them, and we must join that fight to defeat U.S. imperialism.



# Support the Vieques Resisters



Six most recent Vieques resisters: left to right:  
Emilia Rodriguez, Jose Acosta, Wilfredo Velez,  
Mildred Martinez, Leon Martinex, Lourdes Santana

The 20 Vieques Resisters were arrested, along with Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, assassinated revolutionary and patriot, for demonstrating against the U.S. Navy in Vieques, Puerto Rico, on May 19, 1979.

They were convicted and sentenced by U.S. courts, and imprisoned in U.S. federal prisons, on charges such as trespassing. At the same time, the Vieques Resisters argued that there is no U.S. jurisdiction that can legally or legitimately convict any Puerto Rican of being on land that is part of the Puerto Rican nation--that they are Prisoners of War, taken prisoner while fighting in defense of their homeland against an occupying military force.-- the U.S. Navy.

We demand the immediate freedom and repatriation of these exiled Prisoners of War. Building a militant movement in support of the Vieques Resisters--and their human right to fight for the freedom of Puerto Rico--is a key part of building anti-imperialist solidarity with the struggle for Independence and to expel the U.S. Navy from Vieques. Financial support for the Resisters and their families is a concrete and necessary way to provide that solidarity now. The New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism is developing a special support fund for the Resisters and their families. We must ensure that these Vieques defendants are not left isolated in U.S. prisons, where the U.S. threatens to murder them as it murdered Angel Cristobal Rodriguez.



# Principles of Unity

1. We give unconditional support to the Puerto Rican independence movement in its struggle for independence and socialism. We stand in revolutionary anti-imperialist solidarity with the political/military front of the Puerto Rican independence movement which is leading the struggle for independence. We recognize and support the leading role of clandestine organizations in the waging of armed struggle and the development of a National Liberation Front. These organizations provide political direction for the entire Puerto Rican movement and also define the strategy and tasks of the solidarity movement. We take our leadership directly from the Puerto Rican revolutionary forces in the U.S.
2. National liberation struggles are leading in the destruction of U.S. imperialism around the world. Within the current borders of the U.S., it is the struggles of Black, Puerto Rican, Native American and Chicano/Mexicano peoples that are leading in the struggle against imperialism.
3. U.S. imperialism is one system inside and outside the current borders of the U.S. Within the U.S. oppressor nation, revolutionary proletarian internationalism must involve concrete support for the national liberation struggles and movements of oppressed nations against imperialism and the active fight against white supremacy which has historically led the white working class to ally with imperialism.
4. Political support for national liberation requires concrete material support, must mean concrete material support. We commit ourselves to concrete material support for the Puerto Rican independence movement according to the needs and the timetable of that movement.
5. We demand freedom for and are in solidarity with all Puerto Rican political prisoners and Prisoners of War. Free Nydia Esther Cuevas and Pablo Marciano and the Vieques resisters!

## Chapters

### NEW MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

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# INDEPENDENCE & SOCIALISM FOR PUERTO RICO

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**WILLIAM MORALES IS FREE**



WILLIAM MORALES was arrested in 1971 and held in prison for 10 years. He was released in 1981 after a long struggle for his freedom. He is now living in the United States and is active in the Puerto Rican independence movement.

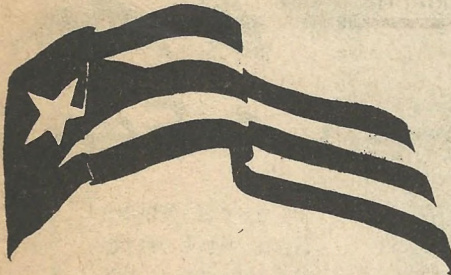
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29	30					

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# The Four are Free Heighten the Struggle!



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NEW MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
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